



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC APPROVES AGREEMENT IN COMPLAINT CASE

Jefferson City (November 7, 2003)---Southern Missouri Gas Company will contribute \$30,000 to various Community Action Agencies throughout its Missouri service area as a result of an agreement approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission. The agreement resolves a complaint brought against the natural gas company by the PSC Staff.

The \$30,000 will be used to assist natural gas customers who are having difficulty paying the ir gas bills. Approximately \$23,500 will go to Ozark Action, Incorporated which serves the Missouri counties of Douglas, Howell, Texas and Wright. Approximately \$6,500 will go to the Ozark Area Community Action Corporation which serves Webster and Greene Counties.

On March 7, 2003, the PSC Staff filed a complaint against the Southern Missouri Gas Company alleging the natural gas company violated its tariffs by providing natural gas to certain customers through an unauthorized service offering called Transportation Service-Internal. The PSC Staff had alleged that unauthorized service contracts had been offered to certain industrial customers of Southern Missouri Gas Company.

In a previous case (GR-2001-388) involving a Purchased Gas Adjustment-Actual Cost Adjustment matter, the Commission determined that Southern Missouri Gas Company violated its tariff when it offered Transportation Service-Internal to two of its large industrial customers. In filing its complaint, the PSC Staff sought Commission authority to go to circuit court to seek penalties against Southern Missouri Gas Company. Staff also sought termination of Transportation Service-Internal.

In addition to the \$30,000 contribution, the agreement states Southern Missouri Gas Company will stop offering Transportation Service-Internal and will not again offer Transportation Service-Internal, or a similar service, unless authorized to do so by the Public Service Commission.

The agreement approved by the Commission was submitted by the PSC Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel and Southern Missouri Gas Company. The agreement was reached as a result of extensive negotiations conducted by the above parties.

Southern Missouri Gas Company serves approximately 7,200 natural gas customers in the Missouri counties of Wright, Texas, Webster, Howell and Douglas.

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